

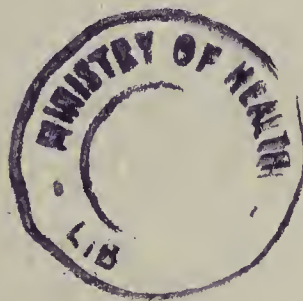
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THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
SKELMERSDALE



Annual Report

of the

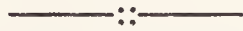


Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1962

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF
SKELMERSDALE



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

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SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1962

————— : : —————

Chairman J. CADWELL

Vice-Chairman: T. MOSTON

Chairman of the Health Committee: T. MOSTON

————— : : —————

J. CADWELL	H. HARDMAN
A. DAVIES	J. T. LATHAM
H. EDDEN	A. R. LYON
T. A. FARRIMOND	P. L. MARDON
R. GREGSON	T. PYE
MRS. W. B. GREGSON	L. E. RAINFORD
MRS. J. GREEN	R. STOCKLEY

————— : : —————

Medical Officer of Health:

J. GORDON HAILWOOD, M.D., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(Part-time)

(Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

J. E. MORRIS, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H. (*Part-time*)

(Assistant Divisional Medical Officer, Lancashire County Council)

————— : : —————

Public Health Inspector:

ALBERT LAVELLE, A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., CERT.I.HSG.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

————— : : —————

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of Skelmersdale during 1962.

The Health of the District remained good throughout the year. The only cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year were two cases of Tuberculosis in adults.

The birth rate was 18.2 per 1,000 population, an improvement on the figure of 15.5 in the previous year.

The general death rate was 11.5 per 1,000 population, a reduction on the figure of 13.6 in 1961. There were, however, 2 infant deaths compared with none in 1961.

Although Skelmersdale has remained healthy, there are still many unfit houses. More houses are required for slum clearance and I would urge greater progress with this work.

Finally, I would thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their interest and support during the year, and the members of the staff for their help and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD

Medical Officer of Health

Area of the District, 1,942 acres.
 Resident population (Registrar General's estimate at mid-1962):
 6,380.
 Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books at end of 1962:
 2,152.
 Rateable Value: £48,655.
 Sum represented by a penny rate: £183.

————— : : —————

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1962

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	60	56	116
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	—	—	18.2
Illegimate live births per cent of total live births	—	—	0.9
STILL BIRTHS	3	1	4
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	—	—	33.3
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	63	57	120
DEATHS	39	19	58
Death rate per 1,000 population	—	—	11.5
INFANT DEATHS	1	1	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...	—	—	17.2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births legitimate	—	—	17.2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births illegimate	—	—	—
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	—	—	17.2
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live birth (first week)	—	—	17.2
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births (still births and deaths under 1 week combined)	—	—	50.0
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	—	—	—
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	—	—	—

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS

———— : : ————

Births

There were 116 births registered in the Urban District during the year, of which 60 were male and 56 female and including 1 male illegitimate birth. The adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population (mid-1962) (comparability factor 1.00) was 18.2 compared with 15.5 in 1961.

Deaths

The total number of deaths registered in the Urban District during the year was 58, of this number 39 were male and 19 female. This was a decrease of 10 on the figure for 1961. The crude death rate for the year was 9.1 per 1,000 population. The adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.27) was 11.5 per 1,000 population compared with 13.6 in 1961.

Infant Mortality

There were no deaths during the year due to Zymotic or Epidemic diseases. There were 2 deaths of infants under 1 year, an infantile mortality rate of 17.2 per 1,000 live births.

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in the district during the year. The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 population for England and Wales was 0.35.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SKELMERSDALE URBAN DISTRICT 1962

————— : : —————

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	—	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Cancer	6	4
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous systems	7	2
Heart diseases	12	7
Other circulatory diseases	1	—
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	—	—
Bronchitis	4	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	5
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—
All other accidents	—	—
Suicide	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
TOTAL	39	19

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological specimens of a simple nature, throat swabs, etc., are sent for examination to the E.M.S. Pathological Laboratory at the Ormskirk and District General Hospital. All other specimens are sent to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

Ambulance Facilities

Ambulance services are provided by the County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

A Congregational Schoolroom in Witham Road is utilised every Wednesday morning as a Child Welfare Centre and Minor Ailments Clinic, under the direction of Dr. E. N. Lindsay and Nurses Nicholson and Vose of the Lancashire County Council. An Immunisation Clinic is held on the fourth Wednesday afternoon in each month at 2-15 on the same premises by Dr. Lindsay.

Hospitals

There are no hospitals in the town.

The Ormskirk and District General Hospital and the Wigan Hospitals provide ample accommodation for all patients from Skelmersdale.

Infectious cases are admitted to the New Hall Isolation Hospital, Scarisbrick.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The township is supplied with water by the West Lancashire Water Board.

Water is pumped from two boreholes some 750 feet deep at Scarth Hill into the adjoining water tower from which it gravitates through a 7 inch main to the district. This pumping station formerly belonged to the Council who sold it to the Southport and District Water Board in 1907. The West Lancashire Water Board have become responsible for both supply and distribution. Many of the lengths of old mains have been renewed. The water supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity.

Due to the Council's post-war building programme and modernisation of existing old houses, the pressure in the higher parts of the town is poor at certain periods of the week, but the position has improved since the installation of a booster pump on the 7 inch supply mains.

Sewage Disposal

The district is sewered on the partly separate system. The sewage from approximately 1,800 houses is discharged by gravity through a 24 inch outfall sewer at the Council's Berry Street Disposal Works, and that from approximately 350 houses, by a 15 inch outfall sewer at the Pennyland Works.

Sewage from a small number of houses in the Stormy Area is discharged into settling tanks at the rear of Summer Street.

The sewage at Berry Street is treated by settlement and land irrigation, and is in urgent need of modernisation.

The sewaeg at Pennyland is treated by sedimentation and filtration and considerable improvement has been made in the quality of the effluent.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Privy Middens — Nil.

Number of pail closets — 39. Number converted to W.C.'s — Nil.

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) — Nil.

Number of moveable ashbins — 2,260.

Number of houses on water carriage system — 2,110.

Number of water closets (including schools, etc.) — 2,160.

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year —

- | | |
|---|----|
| (i) By the Local Authority | — |
| (ii) By other Local Authorities | — |
| (iii) By other bodies or persons | 20 |

1 *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year —*

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defect (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 548 |
| (b) Number of inspections formal or informal made for the purpose | 1464 |
| (2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable, at reasonable expense, of being rendered fit — | |
| (a) Number found during the year | 38 |
| (b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year | 230 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit | 245 |

- 2 Clearance Areas (*Housing Act, 1957*) —
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses demolished during the year —
 - (a) Unfit houses —
 - (b) Other houses —
 - (2) Number of persons displaced 4

3—*Houses not included in Clearance Areas :—*

(1) Houses demolished or closed during year. Housing Act, 1957 :—	No. of	
	Houses	Persons Displaced
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) ...	2	6
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	1	8
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12)	—	—

(2) Repairs during the year —	
(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	210
(b) Public Health Acts — action after service of formal notice — houses in which defects were remedied —	
(i) By owners	10
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c) Housing Act, 1936 — action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit —	
(i) By owners	—
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 —
 Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and
 Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) —

- 4 *Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957) —*
- (1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 —
- (2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above —
- (3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) —
- 5 *House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 — Improvement Grants, etc. —*
- Action during the year — Applications approved ... 12

INFECTIOUS DISEASE STATISTICS

	Smallpox	Enteric Fever	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Para-Typhoid Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Dysentery
Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who have completed a full course of Immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1962, is as follows:—

Children between the ages 0-4 years 87, and children between the ages 5-15 years 54, making a total of 141.

SCARLET FEVER

*Table showing incidence and mortality from Scarlet Fever
1953-1962*

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Cases . . .	7	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—
Deaths . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1962

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F			M	F
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11—15	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
16—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	1		1		—		—	

Dispensary and sanatorium treatment for Tuberculosis is administered by the appropriate department of the Lancashire County Council.

The following table shows the number, monthly distribution and nature of cases of Infectious Diseases coming under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during 1962

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS	REMOVED TO HOSPITAL
ANTHRAX
SMALLPOX
SCARLET FEVER
DIPHTHERIA
ENTERIC FEVER
PARA-TYPHOID FEVER
ACUTE PNEUMONIA
PUERPERAL PYREXIA
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION
MALARIA
DYSENTERY
MEASLES
WHOOPING COUGH
ERYSIPELAS
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS
TOTAL

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1962

Notifiable Diseases	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED											HOSPITAL			
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 Year	YEARS										Total Deaths removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district	
			1	2	3	4	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-35	36-45	46-65			over 65
SMALLPOX	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
SCARLET FEVER ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DIPHTHERIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ENTERIC FEVER ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PARA-TYPHOID FEVER	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ERYSIPELAS	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
POLIOMYELITIS ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ACUTE PNEUMONIA ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MEASLES	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
WHOOPIING COUGH	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
FOOD POISONING ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DYSENTERY	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ANTHRAX	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS 1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS 1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notice	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	3	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	23	23	1	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
Total	26	26	1	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (Sect. 1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (Sect. 2) .	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (Sect. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floor (Sect. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (Sect. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—	—

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1962

Two applications by the Council to secure planning permission for the use of sites in Skelmersdale for use as refuse tips were refused and it was found necessary to seek permission for such a site outside the Skelmersdale area.

This will involve considerable increased travelling to and from the tip site, but this will be offset by the Council's decision to purchase a new and larger refuse freighter to replace the existing defective freighter, thus requiring only two visits to the tip each day as against the previous five or six visits. The rear loading freighter will also minimise the escape of dust into the air during loading.

HOUSING

(a) *Improvements*

12 applications for standard improvement grants were approved during the year.

(b) *Repairs*

Extensive repairs have been carried out to rented properties throughout the area as a result of both informal and statutory notices.

(c) *Slum Clearance*

2 houses were demolished during the year.

FOOD

(a) *Premises*

Occupiers are maintaining their premises in satisfactory condition.

(b) *Unsound Food*

The following articles, unfit for human consumption, have been surrendered by retailers —

<i>Food</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Tinned meat	13½lbs.

(c) *Adulteration of Food*

The following report has been submitted by the Lancashire County Council, whose Sampling Officer took the following samples in Skelmersdale for analysis by the Public Analyst: —

A total of 30 samples was obtained, consisting of 15 samples of milk (2 of which were samples of Channel Island milk) and 15 others comprising —

1 Pork sausages
2 Butter
1 Cornflour
1 Gravy browning

1 Mustard compound
5 Table jellies
2 Tomato ketchup
2 Sauce

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine.

DAIRIES

There is only one dairy and this has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

ICE CREAM

There are now 29 registered premises for the storage and sale of ice cream.

All retailers maintained their premises in a satisfactory condition during the year, and each have satisfactory washing facilities including a constant supply of hot water.

Five ice cream samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were reported satisfactory.

RODENT CONTROL

Routine inspection for the destruction of rats and mice were carried out by the Rodent Operator. Private premises were treated free of cost and a charge made for business premises. No major infestations were discovered.

Maintenance treatments for the destruction of rats in sewers were carried out and there was no evidence of serious infestation.

Attention was also paid to the Council's Sewage Works and Refuse Tips.

A close watch has also been kept on the fencing of ricks during threshing on farms in the period November-March each year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service is carried out under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector. A report on the defective condition of the freighter was submitted to the Council in October, 1962, and the Council resolved to purchase a Gibson Pendulum 27 cubic yard compression freighter for delivery in the new financial year. The freighter is of sufficient capacity to require only two trips per day to the tip and as the existing tip will be filled during 1963, the large capacity freighter will offset the disadvantage of having to travel three miles to the proposed new tip outside the Council's area.

SALVAGE

Waste paper is collected and baled for sale to the paper mills to save valuable tipping space. 41 tons 14 cwts., 3 qrs. of waste paper were sold during the year, the value being £220 4s. 3d.

SHOPS

There are 101 shops on the register and 198 visits were made during the year.

Duties under the Shops Act 1950 relating to the employment of young persons and welfare facilities were carried out on behalf of the County Council.

SCHOOLS

The school kitchens, dinner service rooms and sanitary accommodation at each of the five schools have been inspected.

The facilities at the County Secondary School are excellent and have been considerably improved at the other schools.

Defects found have been reported to the Education Authority and have been rectified.

One of the schools still lacks a constant supply of hot water to their wash hand basins, a basic necessity, if young children are to understand the need for hygiene.

One of the schools still possesses the cement rendered urinals without means of flushing. They are a constant source of nuisance.

FACTORIES

Routine visits have been made to the factories in the district and any defects found have been remedied.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

A number of visits have been made to the 5 factories with boiler houses in the district. Smoke emission has been reduced to the permissible minimum.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Number of dwelling houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	548
Number of inspections made for above purposes	1464
Visits to factories and work places	26
Visits to food premises	168
Visits re infectious diseases	1
Visits to schools	5
Visits to licensed premises	15
Visits to shops	198
Visits to hawkers vehicles	14
Visits re rodent control	33
Number of informal notices served	254
Number of informal notices complied with	232
Number of statutory notices served	11
Number of statutory notices complied with	10

W. Sephton, Ltd.
11-13 Duke Street
St. Helens

